

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14 and 16-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 12, 13 and 15 have been canceled and combined with their respective independent claims. No new matter has been added. Other claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The disclosure was objected to for failing to include a reference to the PCT priority application. In response, the specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner (and to also include a reference to the foreign priority document).

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to for including more than 50 words. In response, the abstract has been amended.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12, 13-15 and 18 were objected to because of a number of informalities. Each of these has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and, therefore, the objections are overcome.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kushihi (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0044092 A1, hereinafter "Kushihi") in view of Saito (U.S. Patent No. 6,255,994 B1, hereinafter "Saito") Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 12, 13 and 15, respectively. Since each of claims 12, 13 and 15 were previously pending, no new issues are raised and the amendment merely places the application in better form for appeal.

Claim 12, now claim 1, specifically recites that "the components are attached to the patch antenna." The other independent claims include similar limitations. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest components that are attached to a patch antenna.

The pending claims relate to an antenna assembly with improved tuning capabilities because interaction between the tuning components and the RF circuitry that is mounted on the printed circuit board is reduced as the components are separated from the PCB carrying RF circuitry. Further, the interaction between a user (e.g. a user's hand holding a mobile communication device comprising a current antenna assembly) and the tuning components or the antenna is reduced. Tuning the antenna by use of these components (that may be discrete components) is less susceptible to electromagnetic interference.

The Office Action alleges that the cited documents disclose components that are attached to a patch antenna. Review of the cited reference, however, reveals that Kushihi's LC parallel resonant circuit (tuning components) is only connected electrically to the power supply side of the antenna conductor (see paragraphs 54, 60). This is in contrast to the present invention where the components are attached physically to the backside of the patch antenna (see e.g., Fig. 2 of the present application for an example).

Since each of the pending claims requires the components to be attached to the antenna and the prior art does not teach this limitation, it is respectfully requested that the present application be passed to issuance.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this response complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Applicant further submits that the claims are in condition for

allowance. No new matter has been added by this amendment. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

12/18/08

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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